

TOT: 12 DEC 84 DIRECTOR

2. CHILE OPPOSITION KEEPS UP PRESSURE

THE COMMUNIST-LED OPPOSITION COALITION, WITH TACIT SUPPORT FROM MODERATE POLITICAL AND LABOR GROUPS. HAS CALLED FOR NEW PROTESTS AGAINST THE REGIME TODAY, BUT A MINIMAL PUBLIC RESPONSE. MEANWHILE, THE MAJOR OFFOSITION FORCES HAVE FORMED A NATIONAL PROTEST COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, AND ARE PLANNING TO CHALLENGE THE CURFEW AND ENGAGE IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN COMING WEEKS. IN ADDITION, TERRORISTS RECENTLY HAVE BEGON USING ANTIPERSONNEL EXPLOSIVES AND ARE ATTACKING SUCH PUBLIC PLACES AS THE SANTIAGO SUBWAY.

COMMENT: OPPOSITION LEADERS PROBABLY CALCULATE THAT POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME WILL WEAKEN IF THEY CAN PROVOKE PRESIDENT PINOCHET INTO COMMITTING LARGE NUMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES REPEATEDLY DURING THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD. THEY MAY ALSO BELIEVE THAT FRICTIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTENSIFY IF HE CONTINUES HIS HEAVYHANDED METHODS. IN ANY EVENT, PERSISTENT TERRORIST ACTIVITY

SECRET

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESS

G

PAGE 003 TDT: 12 DEC 84

DIRECTOR

WILL STRENGTHEN PINOCHET'S RESOLVE TO CONTINUE THE STATE OF SIEGE FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE

DECL DADR DRV LIA 12-84

OUTGOTEG MESSAGE

N G

MESSAGE

OUTGOING

MESSAGE

SECRET